

# WEDDING IN THE SUN

**In a wonderful open-air ceremony on February 19th at Leopard Lodge above the Hartbeespoort Dam in South Africa, our daughter Jen (23) married Warren Melnick (26).**

The setting was breathtaking, and so was the bride. It was a tremendous privilege for me to walk down the aisle with Jen, surrounded by the glories of God's creation. At the front I handed our



daughter over to Warren, happy in the knowledge that God had brought them together. As they took their vows, the sun broke through the clouds and fell on the couple; a butterfly came to rest on a bouquet of flowers. A cat casually strolled past. It was a joyful, spontaneous occasion.

The ceremony was followed by the reception in the large thatched

restaurant of the lodge, with around 100 people there. Most of them knew Warren, but not Jen; so as father of the bride I did a short slide presentation on "Who is Jen?", showing some long-buried pictures from her chequered past. Stephen, as one of the groomsmen, delivered an excellent speech advising Warren on how to deal with his sister! But though most of the guests were from Warren's side of the family, Jen had relatives and friends there from six different countries: Rwanda (matron of honour), Hong Kong (bridesmaid), England (us), Kenya (honorary aunt), Holland (relatives) and South Africa (friends). We felt this was a fitting reflection

of her multi-cultural background.



The couple, now on honeymoon, will come to the UK for a reception at the Wycliffe Centre on 26th March for the many folk who could not make it to South Africa. While over here they will have interviews with a small organisation involved in peace building and community development based on Christian love and co-operation. It is this kind of work, focusing on African communities, that they are considering for the future. In the meantime they are staying in the house Warren already had in Johannesburg while he continues his work supervising church planting projects in Africa.

In the run-up to the wedding, we were warmly welcomed by Warren's parents, Rose and Mike Melnick. We stayed with them for two weeks, and when Stephen, the bridesmaids and others started arriving, their house was overflowing! We are deeply indebted to them for all the help they gave Jen and Warren in making this fantastic wedding possible.

